

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) A composition, comprising:

a plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles, at least some of the plurality of substantially spherical silica particles having a diameter of from about 100 microns to about 3000 microns; and

a carrier fluid, the plurality of substantially spherical porous particles being in the carrier fluid,

wherein, for at least some of the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles, a pore volume of the substantially spherical porous silica particles is from about 0.4 ml/g to about 1.6 ml/g.

5. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the carrier fluid comprises a saline solution.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the carrier fluid comprises a contrast agent.

7. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein at least some of the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles have a diameter of at most about 1500 microns.

8. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein, for at least some of the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles, pores in the substantially spherical porous silica particles have a diameter of from about 20 nanometers to about 90 nanometers.

9. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 4, wherein, for at least some of the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles, ~~a pore volume of the substantially spherical porous silica particles is from about 0.4 ml/g to about 1.6 ml/g~~ the density of the particles is from about 1.1 grams per cubic centimeter to about 1.4 grams per cubic centimeter.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles have a pore volume distribution such that about 70% or more of the pore volume of the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles is made up of pores having pore diameters which have a tolerance of about 10 nm or less on the mean pore diameter.

11. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the substantially spherical porous silica particles exhibit a loss of attrition resistance of about 0.1% by weight or less.

12. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein at least some of the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles include a material selected from the group consisting of therapeutic agents, ferromagnetic materials, MRI visible materials and radiopaque materials.

13. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles are sterilized.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (New) A composition, comprising:  
a plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles, at least some of the plurality of substantially spherical silica particles having a diameter of from about 100 microns to about 3000 microns; and  
a carrier fluid, the plurality of substantially spherical porous particles being in the carrier fluid,  
wherein, for at least some of the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles, the density of the particles is from about 1.1 grams per cubic centimeter to about 1.4 grams per cubic centimeter.

22. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles have a pore volume distribution such that about 70% or more of the pore volume of the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles is made up of pores having pore diameters which have a tolerance of about 10 nm or less on the mean pore diameter.

23. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein the substantially spherical porous silica particles exhibit a loss of attrition resistance of about 0.1% by weight or less.

24. (New) A composition, comprising:  
a plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles, at least some of the plurality of substantially spherical silica particles having a diameter of from about 100 microns to about 3000 microns; and  
a carrier fluid, the plurality of substantially spherical porous particles being in the carrier fluid,  
wherein the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles have a pore volume distribution such that about 70% or more of the pore volume of the plurality of substantially spherical porous silica particles is made up of pores having pore diameters which have a tolerance of about 10 nm or less on the mean pore diameter.

25. (New) The composition of claim 24, wherein the substantially spherical porous silica particles exhibit a loss of attrition resistance of about 0.1% by weight or less.